

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-11 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 /086 W

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P 241745Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2573

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN MELGAR AND MOLINA IN EL POY

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 811 (DTG 131636Z FEB 76) (NOTAL)

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT HONDURAN CHIEF OF STATE, BRIGADIER GENERAL MELGAR, MET WITH SALVADORAN PRESIDENT MOLONA IN EL POY ON THE SALVADORAN SIDE OF THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON FEBRUARY 23. THE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO DEALT MAINLY WITH THE MEANS OF RESOLVING THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE DISCUSSIONS ALSO REPORTEDLY INVOLVED RESTRUCTURING OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET, AND MAINTAINING MAXIMUM POSSIBLE PEACE IN THE BORDER ZONES.

2. MELGAR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, ROBERTO PERDOMO PAREDES, AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY, LTCM COLONEL CESAR ELVIR SIERRA. MOLINA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FOREIGN MINISTER, MAURICIO BORGONOVO POHL, AND THE SALVADORAN CHIEF
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OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES, COLONEL JULIO GONZALEZ PALOMO.

THE PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT THE FONMINS WERE INSTRUCTED TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A SET OF ALTERNATIVES FOR RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT.

3. TIEMPO REPORTED THAT FONMIN BORGONOVO SAID IN SAN JOSE THAT THE PROPOSALS FOR RESOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE WOULD BE PRESENTED TO A MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN MANAGUA IN LATE MARCH OR EARLY JULY. IN A PRESS INTERVIEW BEFORE LEAVING FOR SAN JOSE, FONMIN PERDOMO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD PROBABLY HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE DISPUTE AND WOULD BE FULLY INFORMED ABOUT THE SITUATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT RESOLVING THE DISPUTE IS EXCLUSIVELY A MATTER FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES INVOLVED

4. BEGIN COMMENT: REFTEL CONTAINS DETAILS OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND FONMIN PERDOMO ABOUT NEGOTIATING STRATEGY TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE. PERDOMO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 12 THAT A MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS WOULD TAKE PLACE PROBABLY ALONG THE BORDER WITHIN A WEEK OR SO. THIS MEETING PREPARES THE WAY FOR A CONTINUING SERIES OF MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO FONMINS TO PERMIT THEM TO DRAW UP PROPOSALS FOR RESOLVING THE DISPUTE. AT LEAST AT THIS JUNCTURE, IT APPEARS THAT THE MOMENTUM FOR ACHIEVING A SETTLEMENT HAS NOT BEEN SLOWED DOWN BY MEDIA AND PARTY CRITICISM.
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